ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Systems and methods for automatically discovering the configuration of network and/or communication facilities are provided. The determination generally involves receiving and/or sending at least one test message or packet with special characteristics that normally would be filtered by filtering/forwarding entities in connectionless routed cores, but normally would be forwarded by connectionless communication facilities. If the communication facilities do not contain the filtering/forwarding entity, the at least one test packet will be forwarded or passed through the communication facilities. If the at least one test packet is filtered or not passed, then at least two scenarios are possible. First, the at least one test packet may be filtered and may be silently discarded in which case a determination that the network did not pass the at least one test packet may be made based upon a timeout of a counter. Second, the at least one test packet may be filtered and may cause the generation of error or control messages indicating that the at least one test packet is not a proper packet for the network and/or communication facilities.